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Daily Environment Report

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Leading the News

Chemicals

Democrats See TSCA as Achilles' Heal for Trump Chemical Nominee

Some Senate Democrats are trying to cast doubt on President Trump's pick to head the EPA chemical safety office by appealing to Republican fears that the nominee won't aggressively implement a bipartisan chemical reform law.

Chemicals

States Struggle to Set Standards for Hundreds of Toxics

Several Northeastern state governments are feverishly working to find and clean up two emerging chemicals considered toxic that have contaminated water and soil around the country, but toxicologists say states are missing hundreds more that are related with unknown health risks.

Energy

Coal Power Generators Lukewarm on Grid Plan That Aims to Help Them

Dynegy Inc., and some other coal power generators are poised to profit from Energy Secretary Rick Perry's plan to change power market rules, but that doesn't mean they have thrown their full support behind it.

Energy

Energy Bid to Support Coal, Nuke Plants Called Illegal

An Energy Department proposal aimed at subsidizing coal and nuclear plants would violate the Federal Power Act and the Administrative Procedure Act, regional grid operators, a group of 10 state attorneys general, and legal experts say.

Regulatory Policy

House Passes Bill Targeting Environmental Settlements

A House-passed bill that would end a Justice Department practice of entering into settlements that steer funds to third-party groups faces an uncertain future in the Senate.

News

Agriculture

Broader Crop Insurance, Conservation Are Coalition's Goals for Farm Bill

Expanding crop insurance to cover all types of farms, boosting access to land for new farmers, and conserving farmland shape the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's policy agenda for the upcoming farm bill.

Agriculture

Organic Fertilizers Seek Even Playing Field in European Markets

Fertilizers produced from organic or recycled materials in the European Union would be treated similarly to those derived from potash and other extracted minerals under a plan backed by lawmakers Oct. 24.

Air Pollution

EPA Transportation Pollution Guidance Stands, Court Says

States will continue to use the EPA's guidance, updated in 2015, to measure particulate pollution caused by building federally-funded highways after a federal appellate court dismissed challenges from environmental groups.

Air Pollution

Poles Told Not to Burn Garbage as Another Winter of Smog Looms

Poland is hoping a media campaign will help it clean up the European Union's most polluted cities.

Biofuels

Agriculture Companies Could See EU Biofuel Market Phased Out

Bunge Limited, Cargill Inc. and other companies in the European Union that produce biofuels from feed and food crops would eventually lose a major share of their market under a draft European Parliament plan to phase out the least sustainable biofuels after 2030.

Biofuels

Argentina, Indonesian Biodiesel Face U.S. Dumping Penalty

The U.S. moved to impose more import duties on biodiesel from Argentina and Indonesia, after finding the fuel is being sold below fair market value.

Biofuels

In Washington Clash of Industries, King Corn Trounces Big Oil

Farm-state interests just conquered Big Oil in a fight over biofuels, proving that in Donald Trump's Washington, King Corn still reigns.

Chemicals

Chemours' Chemical Actions Spur N.C. to Retain Wastewater Permit

The Chemours Co. can keep its wastewater discharge permit for its facility in Fayetteville, N.C., because of work the company has done to address contamination involving a substitute for the widely used chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), state regulators say.

Climate Policy

Incoming New Zealand Government Plans for New Climate Law

New Zealand Prime Minister-elect Jacinda Ardern will introduce a new greenhouse gas reduction law and establish an independent climate commission after taking office this week, signaling a tougher stance on climate change.

Climate Policy

Trump's 'Beautiful' Clean Coal Push Spills into Asia

President Donald Trump's friendly stance toward coal is bubbling over into Asia, albeit in a cleaner version of the fuel, according to a Japan-based energy think-tank.

Energy

King Coal Reign Has a Ways to Go in at Least One Corner of World

Southeast Asia isn't ready to quit coal just yet.

Energy

Millennium Sues Washington State, Alleges Anti-Coal Bias

Millennium Bulk Terminals sued Washington state's ecology department Oct. 24, asserting the agency's "animus" toward coal led it to deny a water-quality permit for what would be the nation's largest coal-export gateway to Asia.

Energy

One Rare Thing to Watch for in Quarterly Coal Earnings: A Profit

After years of bleeding cash and a painful string of bankruptcies, U.S. coal miners are poised to do something rare—enjoy an earnings season.

Energy

Republicans Vow to Examine Puerto Rico's Electricity Contract

House Republicans say they will examine how a tiny two-year-old Montana company won the \$300 million contract to lead the rebuilding of Puerto Rico's hurricane-ravaged electric grid.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Nufarm Buys Syngenta Europe Crop Chemicals for \$490 Million

Nufarm Ltd. agreed to pay \$490 million for a group of crop-protection assets owned by Syngenta SA and Adama Agricultural Solutions Ltd. in the biggest acquisition by the Australian company.

Oil & Gas

Fuel Tankers Could Be Limited on Hudson River Under N.Y. Bill

Petroleum tankers could be prohibited from entering or anchoring on certain parts of the Hudson River, under a bill (A. 6825) signed by New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D).

Oil Spills

Oil Barge Company to Pay Millions More for Massachusetts Spill

An oceangoing oil barge company's legal deal with state and federal officials to restore bird populations that had plummeted following a large Massachusetts oil spill took 14 years to work out.

Pesticides

European Parliament Calls for Glyphosate Phaseout Ahead of Vote

The European Union should reauthorize the use of glyphosate for a limited period before phasing it out, according to a nonbinding resolution European Parliament lawmakers adopted one day before a key regulatory committee vote on the world's most widely used herbicide.

Pesticides

Registration Delays Expected as China Launches Pesticide Regime

DuPont and other companies that want to manufacture or import pesticides in China are bracing for delays after the country launched a new testing and registration regime.

Renewable Energy

Developers Plan Wind Farms Off Jersey Shore as Christie Era Ends

After years of being sidelined by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, wind farm developers are

dusting off plans for massive offshore turbines that may someday generate more electricity than a nuclear reactor.

Sustainability

World's Biggest Companies Are Getting Greener, Nonprofit Says

A growing number of the world's biggest companies are setting greenhouse-gas targets in line with global efforts to curb global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius.

Toxic Chemicals

Dow, BASF Beat Kasowitz Firm's Whistleblower Claims

BASF, Dow Chemical, Covestro LLC and Huntsman International have beaten federal whistleblower claims alleging that they failed to report chemical dangers (United States ex rel. Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP v. BASF Corp., 2017 BL 378811, D.D.C., No. 16-2269, 10/23/17).

Toxic Torts

Government Off the Hook for Army Base Pollution

A proposed class of residents alleging improper chemical disposal at a Frederick, Md., Army base contaminated their groundwater can't sue the government, an appeals court affirmed Oct. 20 (Pieper v. United States, 4th Cir., No. 16-2035, unpublished 10/20/17).

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